

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 271604Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4910

DINFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4186

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CS

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE

REF: MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION BETWEEN PRESIDENT

ODUBER AND AMBASSADOR OF APRIL 20, 1976

1. DURING MEETING WITH GENERAL MCAULIFFE AUGUST 23, PRESIDENT
ODUBER SAID

COSTARICA RELIES ON U.S. FOCMITS DEFENSE AND FEELS
SECURE KNOWING THAT U.S. SOUTHERN COMMAND EXISTS AND TAKES AN
INTEREST IN THE AREA. SAID COSTA RICA DOES NOT INTEND TO BUILD
UP DEFENSE FORCES, BUT NEVERTHELESS CONSIDERS IT
DESIRABLE TO HAVE PLANS MADE FOR A GENERAL STAFF ORGANIZATION
FOR PROMPT USE SHOULD NEED ARISE TO EXPAND SECURITY FORCES.
HE SAID ISRAELIS ARE HELPING COSTA RICA IN THIS REGARD, BUT
THAT HE MIGHT REQUEST ASSISTANCE FROM U.S. AS WELL.

2. GENERAL MCAULIFFE REPLIED THAT HE HAS OFFICERS ON HIS
STAFF FULLY QUALIFIED TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE FOR SUCH
ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES, AND HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO MAKE SOME
AVAILABLE TO THE PRESIDENT, IF NEEDED, AT THE LATTER'S CON-
VENIENCE.

3. COMMENT: IN VIEW ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT IN WHAT IS, ESSENTIALLY

A PLANNING EXERCISE BY PRESIDENTIAL DECISION, I DOUBT U.S.

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GOVERNMENT WILL BE REQUESTED TO ASSIST. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS

IMPORTANT TO RECORD THAT THERE IS NOW AN OUTSTANDING STATEMENT
OF A POSSIBLE REQUEST AND AN EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO MAKE A
POSITIVE RESPONSE.
TODMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SANJO04186
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760328-0480
From: SAN JOSE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760812/aaaaajvc.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, CS, IS, US, (MCAULIFFE), (ODUBER QUIROS, DANIEL)
To: STATE DINFO RULPALJ/USCINCSO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006